

**For immediate release**  
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**Mayor, Councilmember Mills, Rep. Heard Call for an End to Illegal Gun Sales  
Unlicensed Dealers Permitted to Sell Firearms with No Background Checks at This Weekend's  
Westland Mall Gun Show**

Joined by City Councilmember Michelle M. Mills and Ohio Representative Tracy Heard, Mayor Michael B. Coleman endorsed legislation that would prevent illegal firearms sales at gun shows such as C&E's Westland Gun Show scheduled for this weekend. Private gun dealers are allowed to sell guns to customers without a background check at gun shows. An undercover investigation demonstrated that guns have been sold at the Westland Gun Show even to customers who admitted they could not pass a background check.

**"The vast majority of the customers at the Westland Gun Show will be decent, law-abiding gun collectors, but not all of them will be," Mayor Coleman said. "Unfortunately, gun shows have become magnets for criminal gun traffickers, gangsters and others who should not have access to firearms."**

Recent events that underscored the need for closing the gun show loophole include:

- Columbus resident Mark Nelson was convicted of illegally selling more than 500 guns, some at the Westland Mall Gun show. One of the illegal guns Nelson sold in Columbus ended up in the hands of a terrorist trying to cross the Canadian border.
- Ronald Paramore, another Columbus resident, was arrested selling guns illegally at the Westland Gun Show and convicted of illegally selling more than 200 firearms, some of which were used in violent crimes in Chicago and Columbus.
- David Gadahn, an American-born senior al-Qaeda spokesman and operative, recently posted a video where he talked about gun shows as a "golden opportunity" for terrorists in America, adding, "You can go down to a gun show at the local convention center and come away with a fully automatic assault rifle without a background check most likely without having to show identification card. So what are you waiting for?"

**"It is important that federal gun laws balance the freedoms granted by the Second Amendment with the need to keep guns out of the hands of those who would seek to harm our community," said Councilmember Mills, chair of the Public Safety Committee. "We need every tool at our disposal to eliminate gun violence in our city, and we ask our federal representatives to stand with us in keeping guns out of the hands of criminals and improve the safety and security our residents."**

Councilmember Mills plans to introduce a resolution at tonight's City Council meeting calling on Congress to close the gun show loophole by requiring anyone who buys a gun to undergo a background check. Rep. Heard is introducing state legislation that would close the gun show loophole in Ohio.

**"This bill is an opportunity we must be responsive to," said Rep. Heard, the bill's sponsor. "To not close this loophole is knowingly reckless and irresponsible to Ohioans and our region. With the challenges we face with gun violence it is nothing short of negligent to not correct this situation immediately."**